(c) if so, what steps Government are taking to convert these possibilities of Ocean Development into reality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir. Hydrocarbon reserves are present in the offshore areas of India.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Technical Feasibility Reports for 900 MW Tidal Power Project at Gulf of Kutch, Gujarat and 3 MW Tidal Power Project in Durgaduani Creek in Sundarbans areas of West Bengal have been prepared by the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources.

Various measures are being taken by the Government to find new hydrocarbon reserves and to increase the production of oil and natural gas by, *inter alia*, extending exploration to deep waters and frontier areas, increasing private participation in exploration activities through various rounds of bidding for exploration Blocks and New Exploration Licensing Policy etc.

Production sharing agreement in crude oil production

1717. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government plans to set-up indigenous crude oil production both off- shore and on-shore and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government are facing any hurdles to carry out exploration activities and how it plans to overcome these hurdles; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are planning to enter into production sharing agreement at home and abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir. With a view to step up the indigenous crude oil production, Government has taken several measures which include:

(i) To improve the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes. These would also help in increasing oil production from the fields.

(ii) To add reserves by exploring in the deeper layers in the producing areas.

(iii) To explore in the new areas, especially in deep water and difficult frontier areas.

(iv) To develop faster the newly discovered oil fields.

(v) To increase workover and stimulation operations.

(vi) To increase exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

(vii) To increase use of 3-D seismic surveys in new and producing areas.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has also taken steps by way of advancing their plans and inputs to produce additional 0.5 Million Metric Tonne (MMT) of crude oil over and above the annual Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) target of 24.6 MMT in the current year.

(b) The continued environmental problem, delays in obtaining land as well as irregular power supply are adversely affecting oil exploration and production activities in Assam. The Exploration and Production of hydrocarbons were suspended by ONGC in Nagaland since May, 1994. Interactions have been held with the State Governments of Assam and Nagaland to resolve the above issues.

(c) New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) envisages signing of Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) for Exploration Blocks in India, both onshore and offshore. The agreements entered for Exploration and Production work undertaken abroad by Indian Companies, including PSUs, would depend on the framework for the individual country concerned.

Parameters for Allocation of Kerosene to States

†1718. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise amount of quota fixed for the kerosene oil during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the details of the basic parameters to fix such quota;

(c) whether requests have been received from various States to increase the quota;

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) the action taken by Government on this?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.